AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 and further comprising:

engaging the inner portion of the clamp through a slot between flange segments of the clamping interface; ~~to~~ and

removeing the clamp.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~21 and comprising:

aligning a tool relative to a slot between flange segments of the ~~spindle portion~~clamping interface; ~~and~~

engaging a portion of the clamp with the tool through the slot; and

using the tool to remove the clamp.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the clamp includes a plurality of tabs and engaging the portion of the clamp with the tool engages at least one of the plurality of tabs .

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method comprising:

supplying an outward force in a first direction via contacting engagement with an assembly tool against~~to~~ an inner portion of a clamp to enlarge an opening defined by the clamp; and

supplying a clamping force in a second direction different from the first direction to disengage the inner portion of the clamp from the assembly tool, thereby reducing the opening to install the clamp over a flange of a clamping interface.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~26 ~~and~~wherein the releasing step comprisi~~ng~~es :

snap fitting an inverted spring portion of the clamp into ~~a~~the recessed groove of the clamping interface.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein supplying the outward force comprises:

engaging ~~an~~the inner portion of the clamp along a sloped surface of ~~an~~the assembly tool to supply the outward force in the first direction to the inner portion of the clamp prior to supplying the clamping force.

24. (cancelled).

25. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~23 wherein the clamp includes a plurality of tabs spaced about an inner circumference of the clamp and the assembly tool engages one or more of the plurality of tabs to bias an inverted spring portion of the clamp outwardly to install the clamp over the flange of the clamping interface.

26. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method ~~of claim 21 wherein the clamping force is supplied while inner and outer tools engage the inner portion and an outer portion of the clamp~~comprising;

supplying an outward force in a first direction to an inner portion of a clamp via an assembly tool; and

releasing the clamp from the assembly tool by supplying a clamping force in a second direction towards a clamping interface, where the second direction is different from the first direction to install the clamp into a recessed groove of the clamping interface.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the clamping interface is formed on a spindle assembly and comprising:

loading one or more discs on the spindle assembly prior to supplying the clamping force to install the clamp.

28. (currently amended) ~~The~~A method ~~of claim 21 and~~ comprising:

positioning ~~the~~a clamp proximate to a spindle assembly;

supplying an outward force in a first direction to an inner portion of the clamp;

supplying ~~the~~a clamping force in a second direction to the clamp along an inverted portion of the clamp spaced from inner and outer edges of the clamp, where the second direction is different from the first direction; and

installing the inverted portion of the clamp into a recessed groove of the spindle assembly.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 and comprising:

supplying the outward force to the inner portion of the clamp prior to supplying the clamping force.

30. (cancelled).

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 comprising:

installing one or more discs on the spindle assembly prior to supplying the clamping force.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~21 and comprising~~23 wherein the supplying the clamping force is characterized by:

~~moving the clamp along a sloped surface of an assembly tool to supply the outward force to the inner portion of the clamp so that the clamp fits over the flange on the clamping interface; and~~

~~applying the clamping force to the clamp spaced from the inner portion of the clamp to~~ releas~~e~~ing the clamp from the assembly tool to snap fit the clamp into a groove of the clamping interface by supplying the clamping force step.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~32~~21 and comprising:

~~assembling~~supporting at least one disc on a ledge surface of the clamping interface; and

snap fitting the clamp into ~~the~~a groove of the clamping interface having a surface recessed below the ledge surface of the clamping interface by the supplying the clamping force step.

Claim 34 (cancelled)

35. (currently amended). The method of claim ~~21~~28 wherein the first direction is generally transverse to the second direction.

36. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the supplying the clamping force step is characterized by a sliding engagement of the inner portion of the clamp against the assembly tool.

37. (new). The method of claim 32 wherein the supplying the clamping force step is characterized by moving the inner portion of the clamp along the sloped surface of the assembly tool.

38. (new) The method of claim 26 and comprising the step of:

positioning the engaged clamp proximate to the clamping interface prior to supplying the clamping force.

39. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the releasing step is characterized by the clamping force slidingly engaging the inner portion of the clamp against the assembly tool.

40. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the supplying a clamping force step is characterized by imparting a sliding movement of the inner portion of the clamp that is opposed by a frictional resistance created by the supplying an outward force step.